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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen: draft resolution

Special information programme on the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 51/25 of 4 December 1996,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,

Aware of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[2] and of the subsequent implementation agreements, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/52/35).

[2] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[3] and their positive implications,

1. Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Office of Communications and Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 51/25;

2. Considers that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Office of Communications and Public Information is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the complexities of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in general, including the achievements of the peace process, and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process;

3. Requests the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1998-1999, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America, and, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations;

(b) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning the recent developments in that regard and, in particular, the prospects for peace;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, and to continue the production of such material;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority and the occupied territories;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists;

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular to strengthen the training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists initiated in 1995.

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[3] A/52/889-S/1997/357, annex.